



Office of The
CHIEF RABBI

Certificate of Religious Practice (CRP)

2021 Update for schools and nurseries under the religious authority of the Office of the Chief Rabbi - Schools Admissions 2022/23

Below is some helpful information to aid parents and carers wishing to apply to Jewish schools and nurseries under the religious authority of the Office of the Chief Rabbi for their children for 2022 / 23.

A brief introduction:

The Certificate of Religious Practice (CRP) gives applicants the chance to demonstrate Jewish practice when applying to schools where a CRP forms part of the information to be supplied at the time of application. Parents and children complete this for nursery and primary applications, and the child does it for secondary entry. Collecting CRP points allows you to prove that you are eligible for a faith place at the schools you are applying to that require a completed CRP form.

You will need to collect points on your CRP form. There are different ways in which you can do so, details of which you will find below.

Covid-19:

Due to the uncertain and challenging times of the past year, the CRP process has been altered and updated as a consequence of Covid-19. If you have completed a form during previous admissions' cycles, you will see that changes have been made to offer the necessary flexibility required in these circumstances.

It is understood that with changeable national restrictions in place the opportunity to attend synagogue in a Covid-safe context could be limited. It may not be possible to collect all your points from shul attendance alone, and so a range of alternative options have been offered to ensure that all applicants have a full opportunity to collect sufficient points. The window of weeks for recording shul attendance has been extended to make more time available for gaining points in this way.

What do I have to do?

You need to collect **4 points** to have achieved your Certificate of Religious Practice. On completing different options, and therefore sections of the form, you will need to have these authorised as stipulated on the form. See the table below for details on the 5 options.

Points can be collected from any of the following categories. All choices are optional.

A minimum of 4 points is required to achieve the CRP.

There is no benefit from earning more than 4 points

| Option | Action Required | No. Points Available |
|---|---|--|
| Attending Synagogue | Register with your synagogue | 8 visits = 4 points 4 visits = 2 points |
| Attending online Synagogue Services | Enquire at your synagogue for details of online Kabbalat Shabbat services | 2 points |
| Volunteering within the Jewish Community | Approach a communal, charitable or welfare organisation. Examples of options: https://www.theus.org.uk/category/us-chesed | 2 points |
| Participating in Jewish Educational activities | Approach a Jewish educational institution. Examples of options: https://www.theus.org.uk/ | 2 points |
| Participating on the online course led by Tribe | Apply directly to Tribe: https://myus.theus.org.uk/events/63059/crp-course-for-parents-and-children/ | 2 points |

Once I have completed the form what do I do?

All sections of the form that have been completed require authorisation and so need to be signed. If you cannot obtain a signature in person, a letter can be provided by the person who would have signed it confirming that you completed that section. The only exception to this is the online shul services section, which is self-certified.

Once finalised, submit the CRP together with the other forms required as part of the application process (checking with the school that you are applying to for what is required) directly to the school.

In detail:

1. What do I have to do?

When applying to a Jewish school or nursery under the religious authority of the Office of the Chief Rabbi, you will need to have completed a CRP. A copy must be sent directly to the school or nursery together with relevant supporting documents and the school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF). You should keep a copy of the CRP and its relevant supporting documents for your records.

Normally, criteria for obtaining points on a CRP include attendance at shul, involvement in Jewish education and volunteering for a Jewish organisation.

However, changes have been made to support the collection of points during uncertain times, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. There are more options now available to you should you find yourself isolating or shielding, or if synagogue or other activities are not open, and other methods such as online synagogue services and online courses can be utilised to collect your CRP points.

2. How do I collect points by going to shul?

If you choose to collect points from your shul attendance you will need to register with your chosen shul. Please contact the shul office to register your collection of CRP points. Different shuls operate this in different ways.

You will be added to a system that the shul uses to keep track of pupil's attendance. This data will be recorded and available to you when completing your CRP form.

3. What is the timeline for the whole CRP process?

| Date | Reception/Primary application | Year 7 / Year 12 applications |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Nov 1 st 2019 | Earliest date for participating in Volunteering and Jewish Education projects | |
| April 17 th 2021 | Recording shul attendance commences | |
| May 5 th 2021 | Tribe CRP 6-week course starts (Course 1) | |
| June 16 th 2021 | Tribe CRP 6-week course starts (Course 2) | |
| Oct 30 th 2021 | | Last week to record shul attendance |
| Oct 30 th 2021 | | Last date for Volunteering and participation on Jewish Education programmes |
| Oct 31 st 2021 | | Deadline for applications to schools |
| Nov 24 th 2021 | Tribe CRP 6-week course starts (Course 3) | |
| Jan 8 th 2022 | Last week to record shul attendance | |
| Jan 15 th 2022 | Last date for Volunteering and participation on Jewish Education programmes | |
| Jan 15 th 2022 | Deadline for applications to schools | |
| February / April 2022 | Places offered | |

4. When can I collect points from attending shul?

There are set dates when points from attending shul can be collected. The dates are as follows:

- For people applying for nursery and reception, the start date for collecting points by attending shul will commence on April 17th 2021 and will close on January 8th 2022.
- For people applying to Year 7 and Year 12, the start date for collecting points by attending shul will commence on April 17th 2021 and will close on October 31st 2021.

5. If I want to collect points from attending shul, how does it work?

A volunteer on each Shabbat will keep a record of who has attended. However, each shul manages the process differently. Please be assured that your shul will communicate with you once you have registered to give you more details on this part of the process.

6. What is the United Synagogue online course?

The course is open to all applicants from any community. It will consist of six sessions of 30 minutes, covering topics relevant to Jewish customs and practices, festivals, kashrut, etc. All six sessions need to be completed in order to satisfy this section of the CRP form. There are 3 separate courses to choose from which will run in May, June, and November 2021. Further details on how to participate are available on www.theus.org.uk.

Families for whom online access presents difficulties are asked to contact crp@tribeuk.com or call us on **020 8343 5656** for more information on how to can participate.

7. I am a member of a synagogue, so why do I have to complete a CRP?

In order to be a member of a synagogue, one has to pay a fee. To become a member of an orthodox synagogue one has to be halachically Jewish. The Supreme Court ruled that synagogue membership cannot be used as an admission criterion.

8. Does this apply to all schools and nurseries under the religious authority of the Office of the Chief Rabbi?

Almost all Jewish faith voluntary aided (state), free schools, academies, independent schools and independent nurseries have CRP requirements, whichever religious authority they are under.

9. Have all schools adopted the same CRP?

Last year, a large group of the schools and nurseries under the religious authority of the Office of the Chief Rabbi, both primary and secondary, adopted the same CRP. However, not all schools adopted the same CRP form last year. It is important that you check the CRP requirements for each school or nursery to which you are applying.

10. Where can I get the CRP forms from?

They will be available from each school's office and/or websites and the school's local authority.

11. What are the new five CRP sections?

1. Shul attendance
2. Online shul service attendance
3. Jewish educational activities
4. Voluntary Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activities
5. Completing a specially prepared for the purpose, Office of the Chief Rabbi approved, United Synagogue online course open to all (a telephone-based alternative will be available for those without internet access).

(Each section of the form has its own specified criteria that must be fulfilled and period of time in which it must be completed).

At secondary level, only the participation of the child is to be recorded, whereas at nursery and primary, it is the child and/or their parent/guardian.

12. My personal circumstances or lack of internet access prevent me from attending online synagogue services /activities / courses enough times to gain sufficient points. What can I do?

We recognise the many pressures that have arisen out of the pandemic. Therefore, in devising this system, we have sought to provide as many options and ways as possible for families to accrue the requisite number of points. There are a variety of combinations in which this can be done. All are equally valid ways of completing the CRP form.

13. What if my child already has a sibling in the school?

Each child must earn their own CRP points for applications to schools. Last year the process was altered. Siblings of a pupil who had previously established faith eligibility for admissions were not required to complete the CRP form. This was created during the crisis to assist making the process easier in an already stressful situation. As we have got used to the circumstances that we are living in, it is now felt that it is certainly possible for all to complete the form as was previously required.

14. I would prefer the option to attend online Jewish adult education courses, but my local synagogue doesn't offer this. What can I do?

There are many educational opportunities organised by the majority of synagogue communities, which non-members are welcome to attend. These are often available more widely on Facebook. There are also many other opportunities elsewhere. This is particularly the case during the Covid-19 crisis, with a wide range of online options now available. Please check with your local synagogue to see what courses are available, or the United Synagogue website www.theus.org.uk.

15. I am not sure about volunteering. What does it cover?

Volunteering means giving your time, not your money. There is a list of volunteering opportunities on this website and your local synagogue may provide others. You should contact the synagogue's administrator or US Chesed (**020 8343 5688**) who will put you in touch with your synagogue's Care Coordinator. This year, there are even more local opportunities, as well as major programmes.

16. How can I volunteer as I cannot spend time away from home?

There are many volunteering opportunities which can be carried out from home, e.g. by phone, on the internet, etc. Many communities have Care Coordinators. The US Chesed team will be pleased to put you in touch with those within the United Synagogue.

17. In order to undertake voluntary work, will I need a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check?

In some instances it is necessary to have a DBS, particularly if you intend to volunteer to work with children or vulnerable adults. It will be best for you to ask the organisation with which you volunteer.

18. Will my child receive preferential treatment if we achieve more than the 4 points required for school admission?

No, there is no benefit to obtaining more than the number of points stipulated on the form. If you do not achieve the 4 points required this year (for example, obtain 2 points), you can still apply but would be ranked lower down in the list of applicants. The CRP is not an examination, but a method of establishing whether the child/family practises the three pillars of the Jewish faith, prayer, education and acts of kindness

19. I've still got questions about the CRP, which I don't think you have answered. What can I do?

For more information, please contact the schools directly. Details can be found in the [schools](#) listing.